

THE LAW-MAKERS.

REPORT ON THE SCRIP BILL.

Senate Committee on Finance. Report on the bill to amend the act to charter the Stock-Creek Coal and Iron Company, approved March 9, 1884.

The Senate met at 11 A. M.—Hon. John L. Hunt, President pro tem., in the chair. Prayer by Rev. Dr. George Cooper.

AMENDMENTS AGREED TO.

Senate bills to allow the treasurer of Alleghany county to file an amended list of delinquent land- and property-tax for the years 1881 and 1882, and amending the law in relation to the appointment of boards of directors of lunatic asylums, which were passed by the House of Delegates, with amendments, were taken up and the amendments agreed to.

TO SIT IN RECESS.

House joint resolution authorizing the sitting of the joint Library Committee during the recess of the General Assembly was taken up and agreed to.

TEN-MINUTE SPEECHES.

On motion of Mr. Blackstone. Resolved, That all speeches be limited to ten minutes, and that no senator be allowed to speak twice upon any proposition.

TO SUSPEND EXECUTION.

Mr. Williams, for Mr. Flannery, introduced a bill to suspend execution against James H. Hamilton to collect a fine imposed by the County Court of Scott county for \$336 and cents (\$337.32) until the 1st of March, 1887.

THE RULES WERE SUSPENDED AND THE BILL PLACED ON THE CALENDAR.

SENATE BILLS PASSED.

To amend and re-enact section 23 of the charter of the city of Richmond in relation to encroachments on streets. Incorporating the Virginia Land-Tile Guarantee Company.

To incorporate the Patrick Henry Telephone Company.

For the protection of oysters and to obtain revenue therefrom.

Providing for the erection of an elevator and committee-rooms in the Capitol and appropriating money (\$2,000) therefor.

HOUSE BILLS PASSED.

To incorporate the Young Men's Christian Association of Fincastle.

To authorize the district and county school boards of Bedford and Loudoun counties to organize graded or intermediate schools.

To repeal section 19 of chapter 60 of the Acts of 1878-79, in relation to fines.

To ascertain the amount of fines and costs collected by certain county officials and which may not have been accounted for.

Relating to licensed warehousemen and others in this State, the storage of property thereon, and making certain warehouse and other receipts negotiable.

To amend and re-enact section 3 of an act to charter the Stock-Creek Coal and Iron Company, approved March 9, 1884.

To incorporate the Virginia Railroad and Transportation Company.

To charter the Clinch-River Railroad Company.

Joint resolution appropriating \$200 to purchase flags for the Capitol.

To give the consent of this State to the purchase by the Government of the United States of land in Alexandria county for the necessary abutments and approaches to the bridge proposed to be built across the Potomac river.

For the relief of the sureties of L. L. Deakins, late treasurer of Greensville county.

To authorize Lodge No. 20, Independent Order of Odd-Fellows, in the town of Smithfield, to accept a casual debt to pay for repairs on their building.

To amend and re-enact section 2 of chapter 193 of the Code of 1873, in relation to the adulteration of food or drink.

To allow R. R. Horne, treasurer of Hanover county, further time to levy and collect certain tax-tickets, licenses, and levies.

To vest the State's interest in Vick's church, in Southampton county, in trustees for the use and benefit of the Methodist Episcopal church, South.

To amend and re-enact section 3 of chapter 120 of the Code of 1873, in regard to partition and the recordation of decrees of allotment, with amendments.

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question was on the motion of Mr. Hunt to reconsider the vote by which Mr. Heaton's amendment—relating to the tax for general purposes from 30 to 25 cents on the \$100—was adopted.

Mr. Heaton hoped the vote would not be reconsidered. If there was any one thing that the people of the State wanted it was a reduction in taxation.

Messrs. Blackstone and Hunt advocated reconsideration, and the vote was reconsidered.

Mr. Williams moved to amend Mr. Heaton's amendment by increasing the tax for free-school purposes from 10 to 15 cents on the \$100.

Mr. Rhea said he would see the hand of the gentleman from Bland (Mr. Williams) appropriating 15 cents to the schools and go him 24 cents better. He therefore moved to amend by making the levy for the school 1 cent on the \$100 and for general purposes 24 cents.

He said that the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia had decided that coupons cannot be received for school taxes, and that the action taken to go to the schools and let the State borrow from them the amount needed for running the government, he was also a friend to the schools.

Mr. Rhea's amendment was adopted, but Mr. Williams' amendment as amended was rejected.

Messrs. Williams and Rhea offered similar amendments with slight changes of figures, on which the action taken was the same as above.

Mr. Meredith called the pending question, and it being ordered, Mr. Heaton's amendment was rejected by the following vote:

AYES—Messrs. Bibb, Canine, Duane, Edwards, Flannery, Gaines, Gooch, Hunt, Loevenstein, Merdith, Moore, Norton, Pollock, Rhea, Staples, Thomas, Williams, and Wingfield—23.

Mr. Rhea would have voted "No," but was paired with the gentleman from Lynchburg (Mr. Diggs).

Mr. Hunt offered an amendment which in effect provided that private banks shall be like national banks—40 cents on the \$100 of capital involved.

This amendment was rejected.

Several other amendments were offered and voted down, after which the bill was ordered to be engrossed, and being forthwith engrossed, was passed.

RECESS.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Hon. John L. Hunt, President pro tem., resumed the chair at 4 P. M.

Considerable time was spent discussing what mode of procedure should be followed.

It was finally decided to proceed with the consideration of House bills on the calendar. Under this rule the bill amending the law in relation to trials before justices was passed.

The bill to amend the Code of 1873, in relation to actions for injuries, was laid on the table.

The bill to amend and re-enact sections 18, 20, 21, and 22 of the Code of 1873, in relation to the recovery of fines, was rejected.

THE PUBLIC DEBT.

Mr. Bibb called for the special order—Mr. Heaton's joint resolution reiterating and reaffirming the joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of 1883-84, approved December 21, 1882, declaring the acceptance by the people of Virginia of the settlement of the debt of the State provided for by an act approved February 14, 1882.

Mr. Wingfield moved to pass by and take up the Massey bill for the appointment of a commission and to facilitate the settlement of the debt.

The Senate refused to pass by.

Mr. Heaton moved to amend by striking out the last clause of the resolution which provided that the Governor should call upon the people and tax-payers of the State to refuse to harass and embarrass the State by seeking to use coupons in the payment of taxes, but to pay their dues to the Commonwealth in money. Agreed to.

Mr. Heaton offered the following as an independent session to the resolution:

To the Governor, President of the Supreme Court of Appeals, Auditor of Public Accounts, Treasurer, Second Auditor, Secretary of the State, and Attorney General are hereby constituted a commission to be known as the Commission upon the State Debt, and to investigate the condition of the State and the practicability of increasing the burdens of taxation resting upon the people of this State.

To the holders of such obligations of the State issued prior to February 14, 1882, who desire such a commission, they are authorized to file with their representatives at a conference to be held at the Capitol at such time as may be fixed by the commission, and in the event of a majority of the holders of such obligations assenting to the action of the commission, the same shall be binding upon the people of this State.

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question being ordered it was adopted by the following vote:

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presented the question again, clear and clean-cut.

It is moved by the General Assembly of Virginia, That if any member of the General Assembly, judge of the courts of this State, or any other public officer of the State government, shall accept a free pass on any railroad line in this Commonwealth, he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars.

On this substitute the pending question was called and ordered. Mr. A. Fulkerson, who was opposed to the bill, indicated his wish to offer an amendment—in effect to make members of the House of Delegates and members of the State Bar free to ride back home on their free passes.